



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - July 10, 2002

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are providing little relief from drought in the ***Four Corners region***, where irrigation reserves are diminishing and dryland agricultural interests remain severely stressed. Meanwhile, drought and record-high temperatures continue to expand and intensify into portions of the ***interior Northwest***, maintaining stress on rangelands and dryland summer crops.
- ***On the Plains***, drought continues to severely stress pastures and dryland summer crops from ***southeastern Montana to western Kansas and eastern Colorado***. Soil moisture levels are somewhat more favorable elsewhere in the region, particularly from ***Oklahoma southward*** and in the remainder of ***Montana***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, much-needed rain ***west of the Mississippi River***, including ***western Iowa***, is aiding corn and soybeans, in or approaching the reproductive stage of development. Meanwhile, cool, dry air is overspreading the ***eastern Corn Belt***, following recent beneficial showers.
- ***In the South***, showers continue across ***southern portions of Texas and Florida***, aiding dryland summer crops in the ***lower Rio Grande Valley*** but maintaining adequate to excessive soil moisture in ***Florida's citrus groves***. In contrast, unfavorable dryness persists in most areas from the ***Delta to the southern Atlantic Coastal Plain***, although beneficial showers are edging into the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***.

Outlook: During the second half of the week, cool, dry weather will overspread the ***Ohio Valley, New England, and Mid-Atlantic States***, while a cold front will maintain a chance of showers across the ***Southeast and Delta***. Meanwhile, a slow-moving storm system will provide periods of rain to the ***middle Mississippi Valley and southern Plains***. Hot weather will persist across the ***West***, although isolated showers are likely in the ***Southwest***. By week's end, showers will spread northward into the ***Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 15-19 calls for above-normal temperatures across the ***northeastern quarter of the nation***, while cooler-than-normal weather is likely in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***south-central U.S.*** Rain is forecast to be heavier than normal in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and across the ***nation's southern tier from Arizona to southern Texas***, but drier-than-normal conditions are expected from the ***middle Mississippi Valley to the Mid-Atlantic States***.

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